



GUIDON



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Fall 2011

Operation Lone Star Delivers Care While Training Emergency Agencies



Published at no cost
to the State of Texas

THE GUIDON

Fall 2011

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On the Cover - CPT Ross, a Registered Nurse, examines a patient during Operation Lone Star.
Photo by 100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Leadership Message

Command is Easy, Leadership is Hard

One of the hardest leadership challenges a commander faces is to get someone to do what they don't want to do – and to get them to want to do it. Finding a way to motivate a soldier to complete the tasks that will secure the success of the mission is often the greatest challenge of all. In trying to accomplish that difficult goal, I believe some special principles can help a leader achieve success.

First, a leader must keep in mind the mission, the thing to be accomplished. To complete the mission a leader must have the people necessary to accomplish it. To recruit and to keep good Soldiers a leader must impress upon them that, with teamwork, difficult tasks can be overcome and the objective achieved. At the same time he must treat his men and women with dignity and respect. This mission oriented goal combined with appropriate treatment of personnel will draw troops to the leader based on, first, the importance of the mission and, second, the interpersonal respect and trust between the leader and the led.

Paradoxically, one must remember that in many ways the leader is a servant rather than a master. As a leader in military service, ones' prime directive is to follow the orders of his own commanders, and ultimately, serve and protect the people of the State or Nation. But he must also serve the members of the unit that he commands as well. He serves them best by being competent and professional at his job, acting decisively when needed, leading from the front, protecting his force to the best of one's ability and always keeping in mind the mission's objectives.

This perspective on leadership is best described as selfless service. Selfless service requires that the needs of the mission, the Nation, the State, and the unit, always take precedence over of one's own needs and desires. When these qualities are present in a commander and are effectively manifested, good Soldiers will follow.

BG Luis Fernandez
Commander Texas Medical Brigade



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Maj Gen John Nichols

Commander, Texas State Guard

MG Raymond C. Peters

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Guidon Editor-in-Chief

SSgt John H. Crowder

Public Affairs Staff

1LT Joy Schoffler
SGM Steven Gamboa
SFC Mitchell Hail
SPC Shelby Plasek

Photo Editor

SSG Timothy Pruitt

Contributors

COL Robert Morecook	WO1 Janet Schmelzer
LTC Wayne Goldsberry	SSG Mark Bomblatus
MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan	PO3 Solomon Cook
MAJ Pedro Barreda	SSgt Rick Wilkins
Chaplin (MAJ) David Fair	CPL Malana Nall
MAJ John Dudenhoeffer	SrA John Zamaripa
CPT Karl Gallagher	SrA John Cross
Capt Shawn James	CPL Peggy Guterrez
LT Mark Hukel	PFC Victor Segura
LT Dale Laine	

Texas State Guard

Camp Mabry
2200 West 35th Street
Austin, Texas 78763

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Operation Lone Star Provides Much Needed Services While Training Emergency Agencies

Story by SPC Luke Elliott
100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In late July and early August, more than 400 members of the Texas Military Forces along with some 300 federal, state and county employees and a myriad of volunteers deployed to the Texas' Rio Grande valley for Operation Lone Star (OLS). In its 13th year, Operation Lone Star is a collaborative medical services project that unites federal, state and county health and human service agencies, Texas Military Forces, local service groups and volunteers in one of the largest public health humanitarian efforts in the country.

Operation Lone Star involves the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Texas Army National Guard and the Texas State Guard, and the Laredo Public Health Services, Hidalgo County Health Services and Starr County Health Services. For the first time this year a contingent of medical personnel from the U.S. Public Health Service participated as well.

"For the Texas State Guard's Medical Brigade and the Texas Army National Guard's 111th Multifunctional Medical Brigade, Operation Lone Star is a vital training mission providing hands-on experience in delivering mass medical care in partnership with local public health authorities," said Colonel Donald Prince, commander of the Joint Task Force OLS. "It's an incredible opportunity to improve our emergency medical response capabilities while at the same time addressing the medical needs of thousands of underserved Texas residents."

The exercise ran from July 25 to Aug. 7, 2011. During the first week of the exercise, medical treatment centers were established at Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School in San Juan, Palmview High School in Mission, Ringgold Middle School in Rio

Grande City, and Manzano Middle School in Brownsville. During the second week, medical treatment centers were established at the Laredo Civic Center in Laredo and the Hebbronville High School in Hebbronville. Additionally, services were available at the Rio Bravo City Hall in Rio Bravo on Aug 3rd and 4th.

Major General John F. Nichols, the Adjutant General of Texas, visited TXMF troops participating in the exercise. He said, "We're practicing what we're designed to do, with all of our inter-agency partners. Operation Lone Star is an opportunity for us to join together and give something back to Texas."

The medical services provided during Operation Lone Star included immunizations, blood pressure checks, cholesterol screenings, diabetes screenings, hearing and vision exams, physicals for students and adults, limited dental services, and limited pharmacy products. For many, OLS is the only time they get to visit with a doctor.

"We are providing free health-care to the surrounding communities, those that are in underprivileged areas and those that do not have access on a day-to-day basis to affordable healthcare," said Captain Daniel Sem, a second-year, Operation Lone Star veteran. He is serving as the Texas Army National Guard officer in charge at the Laredo Operation Lone Star site. "I came away last year, and I trust I will come away this year, feeling

like we did a job well done out here. We got a mission and a purpose and made an impact on the community."

One of CPT Sem's soldiers, Specialist LaRee Lennox, 162nd Area Support Medical Company, a Texas Army National Guard unit from San Antonio, Texas, said that since a lot of people here could not afford healthcare or insurance, this event helped provide much needed annual checkups and immunizations.

"I think it's awesome that we're helping," said SPC Lennox. "Everybody should have a chance to be healthy and get checked out, so I think it's a good thing."

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SSG Justin Bunch works with a patient during Operation Lone Star. Photo by 100th MPAD

Operation Border Star Gives TXSG Front Row Seat to Security Fight

Story by SSgt John Crowder
Texas State Guard Public Affairs

DEL RIO, Texas – The border with Mexico can be a dangerous place. A deadly combination of money, drugs, guns, smuggling and violence had scarred the natural beauty of the land where generations of Mexicans and Americans have lived, separated by the Rio Grande.

Four years ago the State of Texas began a one-of-a-kind operation, where cross functional state and federal agencies shared information and data on criminals working on the border. Human trafficking, gun smuggling, drug trafficking, and money laundering were all targets. If it was illegal and it moved, they looked for it.

Operation Border Star (OBS) was born.

The Texas State Guard is a part of OBS. Thirty-eight TXSG troops work with agents from an alphabet soup of state and federal agencies: DPS, DEA, ICE, CBP, FBI, DHS, TP&W and more. There are six Joint Operation Information Centers (JOIC) located in El Paso, Marfa, Laredo, McAllen, Del Rio and Victoria. Six Guardsmen are based at each JOIC.

The Guardsmen work under the command of the Texas Rangers. "Each JOIC has a Lieutenant from the Texas Rangers. They're in charge of the planning and resource management that directly affects our Guardsmen," Colonel Thomas Hamilton explained. COL Hamilton is the Office-in-Charge of the TXSG contingent. "The Guardsmen are contract military personnel working administrative functions that directly support the Texas Rangers," COL Hamilton continued.

Incident information is captured in databases and analyzed for patterns of behavior. "Our troops

review the data and when they see a pattern of items or incidents, they report this up their chain of command," COL Hamilton said. "Significant arrests and prosecutions have occurred based on TXSG personnel observation and analysis of patterns of activities observed," COL Hamilton continued.

"Each JOIC is dramatically different in the duties that the Guardsman will see and be required to do," COL Hamilton explained. "Much like a utility infielder or pinch-hitter in baseball, you've got to be flexible."

"Duty hours vary widely by JOIC; none are the same," COL Hamilton said. "Operational requirements will dictate the pace of the work and your time off."

Currently, OBS has openings for additional TXSG members. Volunteers must have current computer

skills (MS Word, MS Excel, etc.) and are subject to a criminal background check. An interview process with JOIC leadership is required.

The OBS jobs require shift work with irregular days off, dependent of the volume of work. The salary is based on \$50,000 per year and taxes are withheld at the temporary worker rate of 25%.

There is a one year commitment

to the position. Housing and meals must be provided by the individual from the provided salary. Guardsmen are paid to their account once a month via direct deposit.

If you are interested in volunteering for an OBS position, discuss with your chain of command. You will need approval from your immediate supervisor or an endorsement from your Regimental, Wing or Component Commander.

Please respond via email to SGM Craig Miller (craig.miller@txsg.state.tx.us) with your computer experience, typing skills, your supervisors approval and Commanders' recommendation and endorsement. Ensure that "OBS" is in the subject line.



Sgt. Jose Balli from the Texas National Guard looks at TV monitors during his shift on the Texas border.

Photo Courtesy Joe Hermosa / Associated Press

Guardsmen Give the Gift of Life

I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.
-Winston S. Churchill

Story by CPL Peggy Gutierrez
Unit Public Affairs Representative

DECATUR, Texas – Soldiers from the 4th Regiment really put their hearts into our motto, “Texans Serving Texans.” But now they’re also putting their blood in too.

The second annual Carter Blood Care blood drive was July 23 at the Decatur armory. Twenty-seven troops from the First and Third Battalions donated a total of 23 units of blood.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Perez, 3BN Commander, has been a Carter Blood Care employee for over eight years. He began by managing mobile blood donation units, like the one at the Decatur armory, but now LTC Perez is a data management coordinator.

“I’ve given blood so many times that I’ve lost count,” LTC Perez remarked. “I’m proud of the way the troops stepped up and gave blood today.”



WO1 John Gorena said giving blood didn't hurt—much!
Photo by PFC Victor Segura

An added benefit of giving blood was taking a break from the 100+ temperature. Guardsmen were welcomed into the air conditioned bloodmobile by Carter staff Dustin Koemer, Manuel Vela and Mary Ochieng.

Warrant Officer 1 John Gorena, a blood donor, encouraged others to give blood. “It doesn’t hurt to give blood – much” he quipped! To learn more about how you can also donate blood, please visit www.carterbloodcare.org

TXSG Honor Guard Kicks off Ft. Bend County Fair

Story and Photo by CPL Malana Nall
Unit Public Affairs Representative

ROSENBERG, Texas – The 75th annual Ft. Bend County Fair and Rodeo kicked off Friday, Sept. 23, with a parade and the Texas State Guard played an active role.

The 8th Regiment Honor Guard marched in the parade leading the way for County Judge Mary Ward, a Lieutenant Colonel with the 8th Regiment. Judge Ward rode in the side car of a 1939 Russian Euro motorcycle owned and operated by Command Sergeant Major Paul Esler, also of the 8th Regiment.

The end of the parade meant the start of the fair and 128 members of the 8th Regiment were there to assist with gate access and traffic control all weekend.

Approximately 1,500 TXSG man hours were spent accomplishing the mission. Fair organizers complimented many members of the regiment on the efficiency and organization in which the TXSG did their job on what has become the fair’s busiest days.

The Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo is one of Texas’ largest and most successful fairs. Ticket sales go toward a scholarship program that helps deserving Ft. Bend County students with higher education at

Texas’ colleges and universities. Attendance for the week-long event is estimated at over 100,000 people.



Crisis Intervention and Stress Management Training Coming Soon to TXSG Troops

Story by COL Robert Morecook
Public Affairs Officer, Texas Medical Brigade

CAMP BOWIE, Texas -Crisis intervention services and stress management training will soon be available to members of the Texas State Guard though its chaplains, Chaplain (MAJ) David Fair announced recently. The TXSG wants these services to be available to its own members, if needed.

Chaplain Fair recently completed an instructor's course for Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and will soon be teaching CISM skills to other chaplains. "Stress management and crisis intervention have proven to be helpful to individuals who work in high stress situations such as disaster shelters," Chaplain Fair said.

Chaplain Fair has over 20 years experience in CISM and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. He earned his doctorate degree (Ph.D.) in pastoral counseling and psychology from Bethel Bible Institute. Chaplain Fair led the counseling teams that responded to the Luby's cafeteria massacre in Killeen in 1991, and the Fort Hood shooting in 2009.

"We will be working with the Texas Department of State Health Services and the State CISM network in order to assure Texas Soldiers that they are being

cared for using the latest and most appropriate protocols," Chaplain Fair stated.

Clinical oversight for the CISM program will be provided by Colonel James Hays, MD; a surgeon in the TXSG. Training sessions for chaplains are tentatively scheduled for the Dallas/Fort Worth area and Camp Mabry sometime in the next 12 months.

TXSG chaplains also attended a course in Psychological First Aid at Annual Training

this year. An instructor from the American Red Cross presented the material to the chaplains in order to raise the level of services they provide during the current hurricane season.



Chaplain (MAJ) Fair has earned a Ph.D. in Pastoral Counseling and Psychology —Photo by MAJ Fair

Emergency Agencies Train for Disaster During OLS

Continued from page 4

While providing medical care is a major focus of the event, the other purpose is to prepare disaster response agencies and organizations in case an emergency situation, such as a hurricane landfall, emerges.

"The training that we get in running a non-disaster exercise like this prepares us for working together in disaster situations," said Colonel Robert Morecook, public affairs officer for the Medical Brigade of the Texas State Guard. "We get to know each other's capabilities. We get to know each other's personalities. We get to see where the strengths and the weaknesses are in our organization in a situation before a real disaster happens."

"The training value from this is invaluable because when we have an emergency situation, a hurricane, a fire, a flood, whatever could happen, it's better to learn it here in a controlled environment, a nonemergency environment, where we can come together and work out all the different hiccups and kinks in the system," said CPT Sem.

Each OLS site was a complete well health clinic as well as a medical treatment facility. Patients' heights, weights and medical histories were taken.

Blood pressures were checked. Blood samples were screened for diabetes, and immunizations were given. There were stops for nutrition education and for vision and glaucoma screening before a patient would see a doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant, if needed.

Texas residents benefitted from the free medical services, making the event extremely popular and successful among the persons attending. For long-term medical care, many patients were sent home with written prescription in hand, usually for a low cost generic medication at a local pharmacy.

As well as helping the citizens of South Texas, the clinics gave Texas Military Forces and other public health organizations the chance to collaborate in running temporary medical care facilities.

When disasters happen in Texas, frequently hurricanes, large treatment clinics may be required. Exercises such as Operation Lone Star allow public health agencies to hone their skills in advance of disasters. By preparing in advance for disasters, exercises such as Operation Lone Star are designed to protect the health of Texas and its citizens.

'Iron Man' Kelly Wins Second Contest, Bucks His Way to Sergeant Stripes

Story by SGT Jon-David Wells
NCOIC, 4th REGT-QRT

CAMP BOWIE, Texas — When Sergeant Paul Kelly arrived for the 2011 Texas State Guard Quick Response Team (QRT) Competition, he was in shape, focused, and ready for whatever Colonel Paul Watkins and Colonel James Avery could throw at him.

He was also a Corporal.

In a feat to rival any accomplishment by any Soldier in the Texas State Guard, SGT Kelly not only won the TXSG QRT Physical Fitness Competition for the **second** year in a row, he aced it; scoring a perfect 300 points in the US ARMY Physical Fitness Test Scoring System.

He was rewarded for his achievement by receiving the Commanding General's Individual Award, and also, courtesy of Major General Ray Peters, a new TXSG ID Card...one listing his rank as E-5, Sergeant.

"It was a complete surprise" said the brand-new buck Sergeant. "It was my hope just to qualify, and make a contribution to the 4th Regiment QRT Sentinels." SGT Kelly nearly single-handedly raised the Sentinels' Physical Training Team Score to finish third amongst all TXSG QRT Teams. "If I could do well, maybe I could inspire the rest of my team to score 300...that's the goal. Winning was just icing on the cake."

Goal setting is nothing new to SGT Kelly. "Unless you have a goal, there's just no reason to do it," he said. In 2010, he set a goal of running 4 hours 20 minutes in the 2010 US Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. He ran it in 4 hours 30 minutes. "I hit the wall at mile number 21. It was tough, but I crawled over" he said, his suddenly serious expression underlining the statement.

"I have to thank the 354th PSYOP Airborne Battalion for helping me with this competition. My brother-in-law, Sergeant Scott Moore, introduced me to the unit," he explained. "These soldiers, who all have to deal with some kind of injury or another, truly inspired me to work hard."

SGT Kelly went on to tell how the members of the unit helped him with his technique, sharing the "tricks of the trade". He also works out several times a week in a private gym at his workplace. "It's a 'boot camp' style of class, with a tough teacher that has never accepted the word 'can't' from any of her students...me especially!"

SGT Kelly is now training for this fall's "Tough Mudder" competition; an 11-mile romp through hills, valleys, obstacle courses, and, of course, mud. "I ran a training event earlier this year, and finished 44th out of more than 1,000 competitors in my age group. I hope to finish near the top this fall. Wish me luck, I'll need it," said the ever low-key SGT Kelly. (Somehow, I don't think luck will have anything to do with it.)



COL James Avery presents new SGT stripes to CPL Kelly
Photo by LTC Wayne Goldsberry

In his civilian life, SGT Kelly works for Brown-Forman; a Jack Daniel's supplier. He counts AAFES as one of his clients, and regularly travels the country stocking shelves at some of America's most famous, and important military installations. When asked if there may be a celebration that includes a small taste of his favorite Tennessee sippin' whiskey after finishing the "Mudder", SGT Kelly smiled and quipped, "Here's mud in my eye!"

SGT Paul Kelly joined the Texas State Guard nearly three years ago. When he reached his

41st birthday, he realized that the door was closing on a possible military career. "I contacted the Texas National Guard, and the Texas State Guard at about the same time. The State Guard had more to offer, so I joined," he said.

This family of Kelly's has more than only Paul to contribute to the Texas State Guard, his grandfather, Major Preston Kelly, after forgetting how old he was (16), served with the US Army immediately after World War I, guarding the Trans-Siberian Railroad during the Bolshevik Revolution. When World War II started, MAJ Kelly was now too old for the Army, and so served in TXSG.

SGT Kelly is married to Julie, and has two beautiful children; Gabriel, 7 and Sophia, age 5.



Troops of the 8th REGT stand on the flight line to keep members of the public safe from aircraft as they taxi by.

'Wings Over Houston' a Big Success, 8th Regiment Marks 25th Year of Service

**Story and Photo by CPL Malana Nall
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

HOUSTON - The 27th Annual Wings Over Houston Airshow was held Oct. 15-16 at Ellington Field in Houston. This year's show was a great success, thanks in part to more than 100 soldiers from the 8th Civil Affairs Regiment of the Texas State Guard (TXSG).

For the 25th year, members of 8th Regiment controlled access to Ellington Field and kept the public safe by controlling the crowds on the flight line and active taxiways.

Additionally, soldiers from the TXSG Medical Brigade, Houston and Galveston Groups, treated staff and visitors to the air show with any medical needs.

Overall, the TXSG provided over 3,500 man hours of service to the air show. This is one of the

largest events during the year for the 8th Regiment.

Carol Lee, a colonel with the Commemorative Air Force and air show staff member said, "The Texas State Guard's presence at the show is a welcome site indeed. Their effort never fails to be 'Equal To The Task. A big Thank You from all the Wings Over Houston Airshow staff!'"

Wings Over Houston is one of the top air shows in the country and it attracts more than 85,000 visitors from throughout Houston and around the globe. The air show features vintage World War II aircraft, alongside their modern counterparts. Proceeds from the show benefit several non-profit organizations.

This year's featured performers included the Canadian Forces Snowbirds, Kirby Chambliss and the Red Bull team, Jason Newburg Aerobatics and the Heavy Metal Jet Team.

Service to Others is a Family Affair at Operation Lone Star

**Story and Photo by
SSG Mark Bomblatus
DFW Medical Response Group**

HEBBRONVILLE, Texas - Operation Lone Star (OLS) is a real-world emergency response training mission which allows first-response agencies and organizations to prepare for man-made and natural disasters.

Now in its 13th year, OLS operates in accordance with the National Incident Management System and merges units from multiple jurisdictions, including federal, state, local, tribal and non-governmental agencies.

Once again the lead agency for OLS was the Texas Department of State Health Services. Also represented at this year's mission with the Texas State Guard (TXSG) and Texas Army National Guard were the U.S. Public Health Services Commissioned Corps and representatives from the Czech Republic Army and Chilean Military Forces.

As a truly international mission, OLS is the largest humanitarian training exercise in the nation, bringing much-needed medical services to the residents of the Lower Rio Grande Valley along the south Texas border.

Chaplain (CPT) David Fish and his wife, Corporal Bonny Fish, along with 34 other soldiers, established and operated the Hebbbronville Medical Point of Dispensing (MPOD), a temporary clinic located at the local high school in Hebbbronville, Texas. For Hebbbronville residents, the nearest medical services are located over 50 miles away in Laredo.

As a member of the TXSG Chaplain Corps, Chaplain Fish drew on his experience in ministry, as well as recent training in Psychological First Aid to minister to and assist Guardsmen and civil-

ians alike.

Chaplain Fish and CPL Fish used vacation time to serve on their first OLS mission, really living the State Guard's motto of "Texans serving Texans." The couple drill with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Regiment in Arlington.

CPL Bonny Fish, serving in her medical capacity, performed duties such as patient vital screening, maintenance of patient records and directing patients to the appropriate services; counseling, physician, pharmaceutical or dental services.

In addition, she assumed the additional role and associated

tasks of 1st Squad Leader. She accepted the assignment normally reserved for a Non-Commissioned Officer with enthusiasm, fulfilling the responsibilities admirably.

For her outstanding performance during the MPOD Hebbbronville mission, CPL Fish was formally recognized in a brief ceremony on the final day of the exercise.

"This has been the most rewarding and fulfilling experience I've been a part of as a State Guardsman," CPL Fish exclaimed. "It has afforded me an opportunity to use my skills and training for the benefit of others in need."



L-R Chaplain (CPT) Fish, CPL Bonny Fish and MAJ Gene Mikeska share a laugh at the Hebbbronville MPOD. CPL Fish was recognized for her service during OLS.



Members of the 4th Regiment work a simulated POD operation during the summer's brutal heat to prepare for disaster.

POD Training Prepares Troops for Hurricane or Disaster Role

**Story and Photo by CPT Karl Gallagher
Unit Public Affairs Officer**

DECATUR, Texas - When hurricanes, tornadoes or other natural disasters disrupt the normal supply chain of grocery stores or supermarkets, local emergency managers may authorize a Point of Distribution (POD) center to get basic necessities, such as food and water, to the public. When this happens, TXSG units may be directed to set up and operate these PODs.

Despite the 100+ degree heat, Soldiers from the 4th Regiment practiced these critical skills of POD set up and operation at their July drill. Troops prepared for the drill by taking the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) POD operation class online prior to the July drill.

POD sites need to have good road access for citizens coming from every highway connecting to the city. And each site requires enough maneuvering room for both private vehicles and 18-wheeled trucks, for resupplying the POD. Using aerial photographs supplied by the city of Decatur, the Guardsmen selected several potential POD sites.

The troops were divided into six teams. For the training exercise, each team selected a POD

site then shared their reasons for the site they selected. To add realism to the training, the POD selection exercise was repeated, but now the main highway cloverleaf was closed by a HAZMAT accident, forcing traffic to be re-routed. This impacted the selection of potential POD sites.

Corporal Robert Gustavsen instructed the troops in the use of a pallet jack for moving supplies. Designed for use on smooth, level floors, pallet jacks require careful attention when working with them in parking lots or other rough surface areas.

Combining all the elements of their training, the day's final exercise was the creation of a functioning POD. Traffic cones were used to mark the path the vehicles should use as the Soldiers were divided into three separate teams.

Team One simulated the public by driving their cars through the POD. Team Two loaded lifesaving commodities such as non-perishable food and water into the cars as Team Three acted as safety observers, ensuring that no one injured by a car or suffered any heat related illness.

The teams traded places at the end of each cycle to ensure every soldier could practice each role.

Fallen Veterans Not Forgotten, 436th ASG Works to Restore Cemetery at Former Dallas Naval Air Station

**Story by SrA John Zamaripa
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

Progress: one description that is used when new things replace old ones.

The 436th Air Support Group (ASG) has drilled at the former Dallas Naval Air Station (NAS) for several years. Hensley Field was a part of that installation. But before the Dallas NAS was built, the Huitt family farm and the Fugitt Cemetery occupied the site.

When it was discovered by members of the 436th ASG, the cemetery looked like something time had forgotten. It is surrounded by many trees and is in close proximity to Mountain Creek Lake. A lack of proper care, and with so much water nearby, the surrounding environment hastened the return of the land to its natural state.



US Vets from several wars are buried at the Fugitt Cemetery

Photo by SrA John Cross

During the July drill, several members of the 436th ASG began

working to clean up Fugitt Cemetery. The cemetery is located in a

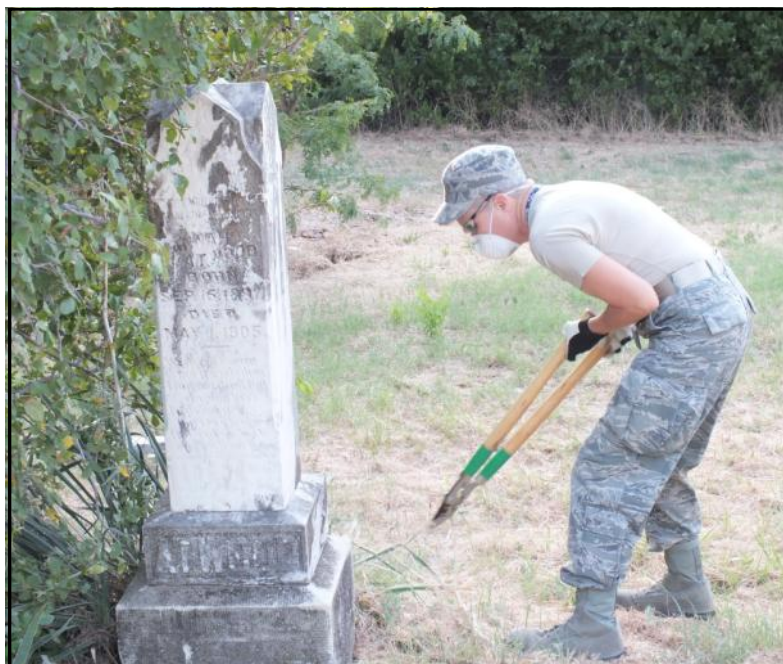
seldom accessed portion of Hensley Field and was originally a part of the land granted to the Huitt family in 1843.

The cemetery's oldest known grave dates back to 1864 and the land was last used for burial in 1951. Of the individuals buried there, there is at least one marked grave of a veteran from the Spanish American War as well as veterans from the first and second World Wars.

Although all of the graves were probably marked at some point, Mother Nature, weathering and the effects of time have erased the names and exact locations of many of the graves and individuals buried there. Because the cemetery was left unattended for such a long time, many of the grave markers have fallen over and some have even been broken.

Most of the work performed by the men and women of the 436th ASG was low tech and consisted of good ol' manual labor. The initial focus was on cutting and removing overgrown trees and bushes and clearing them away. A large portion of grass was mowed and trimmed down to an acceptable level.

Even though a large portion of



SrA Renee Reising works to clear brush at the cemetery.

Photo by SrA John Cross

the cemetery was cleaned up and choking vegetation was cleared away, there is still plenty of work left to do. The hope is that after the land has been cleared, repairs to the markers can be performed, but that is yet to be determined.

The Fugitt Cemetery project will no doubt be an ongoing event during many of the monthly drills and the 436th ASG will help to honor the memories of those individuals buried there.

Working to restore the cemetery were: A1C Randall Willis, SrA John Cross Jr, SrA Renee Reising, SrA John Zamaripa, SSgt Rickey Wilkins, SSgt George Wood, TSgt Pamela Manley, and SMSgt Wesley Pond.

"Restoring this historical cemetery is a challenge which the 436th ASG has accepted," said CMSgt James Short, Senior Enlisted Manager. "It will be an on-going effort that reflects the attitude and mission of our Airmen. Their actions honor those that have gone before us, while holding steady to the course laid by those who gave their all for our country. This is what the Texas State Guard is all about."

Houston Guardsmen Take FEMA ICS-200 Emergency Hazards Response Class

**Story and photo by PO 3 Solomon Cook
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

HOUSTON - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed a series of instructional courses to explain and strengthen the Incident Command System (ICS) which is implemented by government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) during an emergency or crisis.

A combined group of Texas Maritime Regiment (TMAR) and Houston Medical Response Group soldiers took the ICS-300 course on Sept. 2. Petty Officer Second Class Kevin Lofy was the course instructor.

The ICS-300 course entails proven incident and management strategies as well as teamwork and coordination among governmental and non-governmental agencies.



PO2 Kevin Lofy presented the ICS-300 course in Houston.

The class is geared toward middle-managers, supervisors and command staff for emergency response involving hazardous situations. The FEMA course employs emergency scenarios and hazardous exercises to highlight key issues and facilitate discussion.

The final exercise in the ICS-300 course allows participants to apply the information provided during the two day class in a controlled and conditioned environment to enhance first response training.

TMAR Practices Swift Water Rescue Drill at Tarrant County Fire Training Academy

**Story and Photos by LT Mark Hukel
Unit Public Affairs Officer**

The Texas Maritime Regiment (TMAR) 3rd Battalion got the chance to take a break from the record setting heat in July and brush up on their life saving skills at the same time.

Battalion personnel went through an all day course in Swift Water Advanced Awareness at the Tarrant County Fire Training Academy. After spending four hours in a classroom everyone was ready to get wet.

The academy's training facility is top notch and the swift water training area is a "lazy river" on steroids. Wes Rhodes, District Fire Chief for the Euless Fire Department, was the lead instructor for the course and was instrumental in arranging the training for TMAR.

The training included scene size-up, rope throws, ropes/knots, hydrodynamics, self-rescue and equipment needs. It's the same level of training that Fire Academy recruits must master. This course prepared the participants for the Technician Level Swift Water course, which is the next level.



TMAR practices Swift Water Rescue tactics.

The Battalion plans to do that in the near future.

Labor of Love From a Soldier's Mother, Cuban Refugee Sews TXSG Army Colors

**Story by MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan
Army Component Public Affairs Officer**

CAMP MABRY, Texas - When he took command of the Army Component, Brigadier General Anthony "Tony" Rodriguez says he was dismayed by the sorry state of the command's colors.

"There is a long and rich tradition of command elements proudly displaying their colors," said BG Rodriguez. "Historically, the colors represent the rally point, inspiring confidence and leadership. Units would literally march to battle behind their standard. It represented who those soldiers were. But the old colors had been little used, because they inspired so little confidence."

Each of the Army Component regiments carry colors -- some, like the 19th Regiment's, dating to the 1860s -- that incorporate a crest and motto.

At his first staff briefing, BG Rodriguez expressed his desire for new colors to be developed, emphasizing the kind of bold activity the men and women in the Army Component bring to their work. He didn't have to look far to find an experienced hand ready to put vision to practice. Or, rather, fabric.

Carlota Barreda isn't a native Texan; she lives in her adopted home of New Jersey. There, the widowed seamstress still proudly wears to church each Sunday the "A" pin from her son's years at the United States Military Academy -- a reminder to her and others of her thankfulness for this nation welcoming her young family to these shores in 1966.

Mrs. Barreda fled Cuba with her husband and young son. It was that son, Pedro Barreda, who at-

tended West Point and now serves on BG Rodriguez's staff.

Major Barreda said his mother leapt at the chance to again design a flag that would inspire soldiers in the Texas State Guard. Several years ago, she designed the 2nd Regiment's colors.

She spent the spring designing the colors, which made their debut at Annual Training -- serving as a background for television interviews given by Army Component Command chief of staff Colonel James Avery, and offering a visual reminder of BG Rodriguez's emphasis on training grounded in the traditions of the military forces. Mrs. Barreda donated her time and efforts to what could have been a very costly project.

"There is always a special pride that goes along

with seeing your unit's colors," said BG Rodriguez. "It gets easy to forget, because we see these standards so often in military circles, just how unique each one is or can be. They have to be personally designed and hand-crafted. I'm not sure I, or anyone on the staff or serving in the Army Component, can express though just how special these colors are. Yes, they were designed by someone who came to our nation, seeking its freedoms. Yes, it is someone who understands the sac-



**Carlota Barreda takes a break while sewing the new Army Command colors at her home in New Jersey.
Photo by MAJ Perdo Barreda**

rifices those freedoms require of men and women in uniform. But on top of all of that, she is also one of our own, a part of the family of the Army Component."

Mrs. Barreda was recently recognized by BG Rodriguez and the Army Command staff when she made a visit to Austin. BG Rodriguez presented her with a plaque commemorating her work, and was "coined" by him as a special mark of distinction.



LTC Silva (left) prepares to accept the guidon and assume command of the 1st Battalion.

Photo by PFC Victor Segura

It's Official: 1st Battalion Has Arrived!

**Story by CPL Peggy Gutierrez
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

DECATUR, Texas – With a feeling of excitement and anticipation in the air, the 1st Battalion of the 4th Regiment made its official debut on July 23, 2011. Colonel Howard N. Palmer, Jr., 4th Regiment Commander, presented the unit guidon to the new battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Jaime Silva.

“For the past two years, the personnel of 1st Battalion have been under the operational control of the 3rd Battalion,” said Lieutenant Colonel Ray V. Peters, Jr., 4th Regiment Executive Officer and former commander of the 3rd Battalion. “Now, the new 1st Battalion will call the Armory in Weatherford home.”

Commenting on his new command, LTC Silva said, “We have seen tremendous growth in our battalion in the last two months. We are implementing an organizational structure and instituting procedures now so that as we grow we will be prepared.”

“I’m looking forward to commanding the battalion,” LTC continued. “We have the best support team! Key positions are filled by talented and dedicated soldiers and I’m impressed by what they accomplish at every drill.”

The newly minted 1st Battalion has 28 Soldiers and draws members from north and west of Ft. Worth.

Corporal Thomas Adamovicz lives in Denton and is a new member of the 1st Battalion. “I’m extremely excited to help the new 1st Battalion establish our roots - and that is why I volunteered to transfer when there was a call for soldiers to help,” CPL Adamovicz explained.

“The 1st Battalion takes training very seriously,” said LTC Silva. “I am confident our soldiers will know how to respond in times of need by our fellow Texans.”

Prior to joining the TXSG in May 2011, LTC Silva spent 21 years on active duty with the US Air Force. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico and a Master Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology. LTC Silva was a USAF Test Pilot with over 4,000 flight hours on 24 different aircraft. LTC Silva was awarded the US Air Force Airman’s Medal for heroism in January 1993 when he pulled two civilians to safety from their wrecked aircraft.

“Command Sergeant Major Hayward Bellah has 38 years Army experience and I’m anxious to learn a great deal from him,” CPL Adamovicz continued. “To be in this new unit at the beginning, to help start new traditions, and to grow as a Guardsman along with this new battalion is an exciting opportunity that I could not pass up.”

Some Guardsmen Have Unique Roles and Duties Helping Fellow Texans

Legislator, Warrior, Leader, Servant; Several Guardsmen Wear Many Hats

By MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan and SPC Shelby Plasek
Texas State Guard Public Affairs Staff

AUSTIN, Texas - If there is anything a member of the Texas State Guard can understand, it's how to juggle multiple hats. Between work, family and other civic obligations, TXSG Soldiers are always willing to step into positions of service and leadership.

For 12 TXSG Soldiers, that list of responsibilities also includes serving in the Texas House of Representatives.

Lieutenant Colonel Phil King has served in the Texas Legislature since 1999. A former Fort Worth police officer, he felt drawn into the Guard following the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

"I saw this great organization doing remarkable things serving Texas," said LTC King. "The way the men and women serve without asking for recognition or glory is what has made it one of the state's best kept secrets."

But LTC King said he wasn't content to let the TXSG remain a secret in the legislature. He and others began actively recruiting new legislators, from both political parties.

Today, many of those lawmakers are grouped into a Headquarters unit known as "J-9," focused on strategic initiatives and commanded by Colonel Bob Miller. During activation, the J-9 serves as a support group for field operations, providing public liaison support. Otherwise, J-9 is responsible for recruitment initiatives, general TXSG promotion, and addressing funding issues.

Not all legislators work in J-9, though. For example, State Rep. Bill Callegari, a professional engineer, is assigned to a Houston-area engineering unit, while Commander Dan Flynn was an early member of the Maritime Regiment.

With the TXSG making up a small fraction of the overall state budget, TXSG Soldiers serving in the legislature have helped make sure the entity isn't forgotten in the budget process -- as it almost was this legislative session.

Because of the international economic crisis, Texas -- like all other states -- was facing an unprecedented budget situation.

Major Allen Fletcher, a state representative from Harris County, said he was surprised to find that in the budget drafting process the TXSG had been inadvertently "zeroed out" over confusion with the National Guard budget.

MAJ Fletcher said it wasn't hard to demonstrate



MAJ Allen Fletcher discusses J9 Liaison duties with SPC Shelby Plasek of the PAO Staff. Photo by SSG Tim Pruitt

the value Texans get from the TXSG in discussions with his fellow legislators.

"My colleagues are most impressed with the level of expertise among the personnel in the Guard," said MAJ Fletcher. "There are NASA Ph.D.'s, chief executives of companies, some of the best medical personnel in the country, that all serve in the TXSG. No other state has a program so well run."

Freshman State Rep. Larry Gonzales of Round Rock, a Lieutenant Commander in the Maritime Regiment, said he was "proud to have been able to work closely with my colleagues in the House to emphasize the important role the guard plays in lives of all Texans. Many thanks to those House members who took the time to listen and ask questions about the State Guard budget."

Over the years, CDR Flynn, LTC King and other legislators have taken on numerous guard-related legislative initiatives, with varying degrees of success, to address pay issues, eligibility requirements, and clean-ups of the Texas Code of Military Justice. Just this year, House Bill 282 was passed requiring the office of Texas Adjutant General to consider the

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facilities needs of the TXSG before disposing of property or space.

The legislators also extend their work on behalf of the larger Texas Military Forces family. TXSG Soldiers serving in the legislature secured new state benefits for veterans, medals and commendations for Soldiers returning from overseas, and other related actions.

Significantly benefiting all members of the National Guard and State Guard alike, the legislature passed House Bill 1178 -- authored by CDR Flynn -- providing stronger job protections for soldiers who are serving on active duty.

MAJ Fletcher, the Harris County legislator, said that being in the TXSG has allowed him to see how effectively a positive, motivated group of men and women can impact the state and its citizens.

"This is a representation of what our nation is founded upon: people that make a difference by volunteering their time, to put on a uniform and help others in need. It's truly Texans serving Texans."

Here are some of the Legislators who also serve in the Texas State Guard:

Representative Bill Callegari

Major William A. 'Bill' Callegari has represented the 132nd House District for 11 years. He lives in Katy with his wife of 50 years, Ann. They have four children and 11 grandchildren.

MAJ Callegari earned his Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Engineering from Louisiana State University and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Houston.

MAJ Callegari joined the TXSG in November 2009 and is attached to the Civil Engineering Augmentation Team. He uses his Water and Wastewater Operators License to assist local municipalities with the restoration of water and sanitary services during a disaster.

As a Member of the Texas House, MAJ Callegari currently serves as the Chairman of the Government Reform Committee and on the House Research Organization. He is on the Urban Affairs Committee and Chairs the Houston Area House Delegation.

"While in ROTC in college, I hoped to become a USAF pilot," MAJ Callegari said. "However, when the time came to enter the final two years of ROTC to become a pilot and officer, I discovered that I could not fly because of my eyes, so I did not continue the program."



"My older brother was a B52 - Navigator and was killed in a B52 crash during the Viet Nam era. I am very proud of his service and regret that I never served," MAJ Callegari continued.

"The Texas State Guard gives me the opportunity to continue to give back to my community and state, and to do so in a military atmosphere. It also allows me to identify more closely with my peers who did serve in the military, and to better understand and contribute to the commitment and sacrifices that the young men and women who serve our great country make for us," MAJ Callegari said.

"In addition, several of my 11 grandchildren are either currently committed or plan to commit to military service, and I want them to know that I fully commend and support their desire to serve our country. I do this for my grandchildren, in memory of my brother and for the people of the state of Texas. I believe that the Texas State Guard performs a valuable service by providing experienced individuals who believe in helping people in need and are dedicated to getting the job done," MAJ Callegari concluded.

Representative Larry Gonzales

Lieutenant Commander Larry D. Gonzales represents the 52nd House District and resides in Round Rock with wife Marie and their two children.

LCDR Gonzales serves in the Texas Maritime Regiment and is assigned to Strategic Initiatives J9 and drills at Camp Mabry Headquarters. LCDR Gonzales joined the TXSG this year.

"I joined the TXSG because I want to serve the people of Texas. So many of my friends and family have sacrificed so much for this great country serving in the U.S. military. I wanted to do my part. The TXSG is my opportunity to help with operations in support of homeland security, natural disasters and state agencies," LCDR Gonzales explained.

At the state capitol, LCDR Gonzales currently serves on the Border Affairs and County Affairs Committees. Before being elected a house representative, LCDR served as a legislative and agency staff member for 14 years.

When asked what advice he would give someone who is interested in joining the TXSG, LCDR Gonzales replied, "Join. Serve the people of Texas with us. It's an opportunity to help others when they need you the most," he exclaimed.



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Continued from previous page**Representative Phil King**

Lieutenant Colonel Phil King has represented the 61st House District for 13 years. He lives in Weatherford with Terry, his wife of 32 years. They have six children and seven grandchildren. LTC King joined the TXSG in May 2007.



"After 9/11, I think a lot of us wanted to serve but either were too old or had other responsibilities, such as serving in the legislature," LTC King said. "The Texas State Guard was simply a great opportunity to serve Texas outside of federal military service."

Before joining the TXSG, LTC King had a career in law enforcement. He currently serves in the Texas Legislature on the Elections and Urban Affairs committees. Additionally, he serves as the Vice Chair of the Legislative TEA Party Caucus.

"Joining the TXSG is a great opportunity but only if you are ready to make the commitment of time and personal resources. Without question it requires personal and financial sacrifice," LTC King said.

Representative Dan Flynn

Commander Dan Flynn has represented the 2nd House District for 10 years. He lives in Van with his wife Susan. They have a son and daughter.

CDR Flynn served in the US Army and the National Guard prior to joining the TXSG in 2006. CDR Flynn is a member of the Texas Maritime Regiment and is assigned to Strategic Initiatives J9. He is also a Senior Advisor to the Commanding General and drills at Camp Mabry Headquarters. CDR Flynn said that the vision, value and leadership are what "open bridges of communication to all citizens, giving opportunities for more people to be involved in the process."



CDR Flynn continued: "The TXSG is a great example of this and it is why I joined."

As a member of the Legislature, he currently serves on the Defense and Veterans Affairs committee and the Homeland Security and Public Safety committee.

When asked what advice he would give someone who is interested in joining the TXSG, CDR Flynn replied, "If you are all about serving your state and making a difference this is the place to be," he ex-

plained.

Representative Ryan Guillen

Major Ryan Guillen has represented the 31st House District for nine years. He lives in Rio Grande City with his wife Dalinda and their daughter.

MAJ Guillen joined the TXSG in 2009 and is assigned to Strategic Initiatives J9. MAJ Guillen drills at Camp Mabry Headquarters.

As a Texas House Legislator, MAJ Guillen currently serves on the Public Education Committee and the House Select Election Contests Committee. Additionally, MAJ Guillen is the Chairman of the House Committee on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism.



"I'm in the TXSG because it is an honorable organization that dedicates itself to serving and protecting the residents of Texas," MAJ Guillen stated. "I look at my function in the TXSG as an extension of my duties as a state representative; I want to be involved in helping Texas communities, especially during times when they're in dire need of assistance."

"The TXSG is an important institution because it provides local authorities in times of state emergencies with added peace of mind, leadership, and support," MAJ Guillen added.

Representative Tim Kleinschmidt

Lieutenant Commander Tim Kleinschmidt has represented the 17th House District for three years. He resides in Lexington with Anna, his wife of 27 years. They have a daughter and two sons.

LCDR Kleinschmidt serves in the Texas Maritime Regiment and is assigned to Strategic Initiatives J9 and drills at Camp Mabry Headquarters. LCDR Kleinschmidt joined the TXSG last year.

"I joined the TXSG because we provide important support to state agencies, such as the Texas Forest Service and we provide needed disaster relief services," LCDR Kleinschmidt said. "It's a means for me to serve the people of the State of Texas."



In the Texas Legislature, LCDR Kleinschmidt currently serves on the Agriculture and Livestock committee and is Vice-Chair of the Land and Resource Management committee.

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"If you're thinking about serving in the TXSG I'd say, Join Up! It's a great opportunity to serve your fellow Texans and work with some of the most dedicated and talented people in the state," LDCR Kleinschmidt exclaimed.

Representative Leo Berman

Colonel Leo Berman has represented the 6th House District for 13 years. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, COL Berman lives in Tyler with his wife, Dr. Lou Ann Berman.

COL Berman retired from the US Army as a Lieutenant Colonel after a career that spanned 22 years of active duty service. COL Berman served two tours in Viet Nam and was awarded three Bronze Star Medals; nine Air Medals; the Meritorious Service Medal in addition to numerous other awards throughout his career.



"Soldiering is embedded in my heart. I've spent my whole life in uniform and it was an easy decision when the offer came to join the State Guard," COL Berman said.

"Our mission is something that is needed in Texas by the Governor when we are subjected to hurricanes, tornadoes or other disasters that cannot be resolved locally but requires the assistance of an outside trained force. Guardsmen are ready to help Texans in trouble with many of the problems related to disasters," COL Berman continued.

As a State House member in Austin, COL Berman currently serves on the Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee and the House Select Election Contests Committee.

When asked what advice he would give someone who is interested in joining the TXSG, COL Berman replied, "Ask someone who is a Guardsman to brief you on the value of service to the state and the mission of the Texas State Guard. It will fulfill a need that many Texans are seeking."

"Joining [the TXSG] was an easy fit for me in two ways. First, getting back into the uniform and second, because the uniforms themselves still fit!" he quipped.

Representative Doug Miller

Major Doug Miller has represented the 73rd House District for three years. He lives in New Braunfels with Anne, his wife of 34 years. They have a son and a daughter.

MAJ Miller is assigned to Strategic Initiatives J9, and drills at Camp Mabry Headquarters. MAJ Miller joined the TXSG this year.

"I joined the TXSG because I believe the Guard plays a vital role in helping people, especially during disasters," MAJ Miller explained. "I've been a volunteer all of my adult life and I see the State Guard as a way to assist my fellow Texans during their time of greatest need."

As a member of the Legislature, MAJ Miller currently serves on the Appropriations and Natural Resources committees. Additionally, he is the Co-Chairman of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Legislative Oversight committee and serves on the Joint Committee on Environmental Flows.

"If you're thinking about serving in the TXSG come to one of our drills, visit with our members and ask questions. If it feels right for you, join! We need you!" MAJ Miller exclaimed.



Representative Allen Fletcher

Major Allen Fletcher has represented the 130th House District for four years. He lives in Tomball with his wife of 32 years, Penny. They have a son and two daughters.

MAJ Fletcher is assigned to Strategic Initiatives J9, and drills at Camp Mabry Headquarters. MAJ Fletcher joined the TXSG in 2007.

"I joined the TXSG because I was impressed by my fellow House Member's service and when I was invited by them, I gladly joined," MAJ Fletcher said. "On a personal note, my son and son-in-law's active duty service inspired me to become a member. Our state needs our own military services to ensure our sovereignty."

Serving in the Texas House, MAJ Fletcher currently serves as the Chairman of the Law Enforcement sub-committee, the Vice-Chairman of the Homeland Security and Public Safety committee and he also serves on the Transportation committee.

"If you're thinking about joining the TXSG be prepared to participate and make yourself available in times of need for our state," MAJ Fletcher urged.



SSgt John Crowder contributed to this report.

Life is Like a Three Legged Stool

Story by Chaplain (MAJ) David J. Fair, PhD
Chaplain Coordinator, Texas State Guard

I remember one summer as a kid I fell off a three legged stool. I was at a clumsy age, but what actually happen was one of the legs gave way dumping me on my back-side. It hurt.

Life can be that way at times. Like a Three Legged Stool. If all three legs are firmly mounted, even and on a flat surface, things can go pretty orderly. But if something happens to one of the three legs you may well find yourself on the floor. Right there on your backside hurting.

It's my belief the three legs on the stool of life are, spirit, soul (emotions) and body. If anything gets out of balance with the stool or if a leg gives way we can have big problems. So it is safe to say there should be a balance in everything we do.



Spiritually we need to adhere to the tenants of our faith tradition. Including reading our Bible or whatever Holy Book we use that ties us to the Creator.

From a soul or emotional standpoint we must stand steady, be level headed and use the common sense we have been given. Emotions are a funny thing, seems they can make us or break us. It is easy for them to get out of control. We need to work especially hard to keep this leg of the stool in place. And lastly body, out physical makeup. This too is important

we owe it to our fellow Texas State Guard members and the Citizens of the State of Texas to stay in shape so we will be able to perform the tasks we are called to do.

It's important we keep the Stool of Life in balance. Both we and those we serve will be better for it.

TXSG Airman Marches to Remember 9-11 Victims

Story by Capt Shawn James
Unit Public Affairs Officer

STATE LINE, Texas - Airman First Class Kent 'Slim' Martindale recently participated in the 'Rucksack March to Remember' - part of a 2,181-mile trek from San Antonio to Ground Zero in honor of the fallen service members and the victims of 9-11.

The march — the brainchild of USAF Major Jim Alves, the 4th Security Forces Squadron commander at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina — began July 12 in San Antonio, with individual units selecting 140-mile legs of the journey, which concluded Sept. 11 in New York City.

A1C Martindale is a member of the Texas State Guard 5th Air Wing, 447th Air Support Group based at Ellington Field in Houston. Shown with A1C Martindale is Airman First Class Chris Hernandez of the 81st Security Forces Squadron from Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS.

A1C Martindale and other marchers ended their portion of the Rucksack March at the Texas state line.



L-R A1C Martindale and A1C Hernandez hoist the USAF Security Forces guidon during the 'Rucksack March.'
Photo by Dodie Martindale



COL Robert Hastings, Chief Public Affairs Officer for the TXSG, shares experiences and tips at the July training session

4th REGT PAOs Sharpen Skills

**Story and Photo by WO1 Janet Schmelzer
Unit Public Affairs Officer**

FT. WORTH, Texas – Open any newspaper or magazine or watch any news program and you're likely to see a story about a person saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. Technology has made it possible for a comment spoken in haste to be captured on a cell phone and flashed around the world in a matter of moments. Sometimes the damage done is immediate and irreversible.

Colonel Robert Hastings, Chief Public Affairs Officer for the TXSG, presented a lecture July 16 to the 4th Regiment Public Affairs staff covering Public Affairs best practices.

COL Hastings stressed how important it was that every soldier understand their role in public affairs. He stressed many critical points to remember such as Stay on Message, Think Before You Speak, Know Your Audience and Do Not Speculate.

Following COL Hastings presentation, Warrant Officer One Janet Schmelzer, Public Affairs Officer for the 4th Regiment, continued the training with emphasis on crafting and writing articles so the public can better understand the role and mission of the TXSG.

WO1 Schmelzer reminded the class that "every opportunity is a Public Affairs opportunity." She also discussed the importance of photography, "each photograph should draw the reader into the picture and make them feel like that they are a part of the action."

Each battalion in the 4th Regiment has two UPARs – Unit Public Affairs Representatives and the UPARs are very active. Corporal Peggy Gutierrez, Private First Class Victor Segura, Specialist Byron Sims, Private First Class Ron Cook and Corporal James Smith have contributed photos and/or stories to the TXSG quarterly newsmagazine The GUIDON.

The next task for the 4th Regiment Public Affairs shop is to make a presentation at drill to the entire regiment on public affairs operations.



PO3 Jeffrey Tillman and PO3 Richard Faltot show PFC Bailey Phillips how to tie trousers into a flotation device.

Soldiers Pass Navy Swim Test

**Story and photo by CPL Peggy Gutierrez
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

DENTON, Texas - The Army and the Navy have a history – with each other! But inter-service rivalry was set aside in August as members from the Texas Maritime Regiment (TMAR) instructed and guided 4th Regiment soldiers through the US Navy Third Class Swim Test.

The swimming pool at Texas Woman's University was the test site as soldiers learned and practiced water survival skills prior to the Navy swim test. The intent of the training was to enhance the soldier's basic water skills necessary to operate safely when deployed.

The Navy test included the deep water jump, the 50-yard swim, and the 5-minute prone float, and the trouser inflation swim. Troops were trained on how to jump deep without actually going deep and depending on the situation; this could make a huge difference to the survival of the soldier.

The prone float focused on relaxation and conservation of energy for potential long term water survival and is nicknamed the "dead man's float" because trainees look like they have drowned.

Perhaps the most difficult skill to master was the trousers inflation maneuver, where a soldier turns his trousers into an ad hoc floatation device. Trainees were required to swim the length of the pool with their trousers inflated. Many soldiers had to inflate their pants more than once, as their trousers continued to deflate.

Leading the instruction for the Navy Swim Test was Chief Petty Officer Aaron Self, the NCOIC of the 3BN dive team. CPO Self was assisted by Petty Officer Third Class Joe Tillman, Petty Officer Third Class Richard Faltot and recruit Chet Stephens.

Doing double duty was TMAR Private First Class Jessica Meza, who works on the TWU campus as a lifeguard and was the lifeguard-on-duty for this exercise and she participated in the exercise as well.

Lockheed Martin Flies POW-MIA Flag at US Plants

TXSG Members Work to Change Flag Policy, Raise Awareness of Missing & Unaccounted for Vets

**Story and Photos by SSgt Rick Wilkins
436th Group Air Support Group**

FT. WORTH, Texas – Defense contractor Lockheed Martin implemented a new corporate policy Sept. 15, opting to fly the POW-MIA flag below the United States flag at installations all across America.

Discussions on the flag project began in 2005 and the new policy was implemented just four days after the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America.

On this historic day two Lockheed Martin employees, both former Prisoners-of-War, shared their experiences in Viet Nam. Mike Leibo was piloting an F-4 fighter when he was shot down in Dec. 1972. Jim Lather was a crew member on a B-52 when it was shot down in 1969 and he was captured. Lather was released in April 1972.

Both aviators spoke of the hardships they endured and pride they feel in the POW-MIA flag and what it means to them personally. Their comments were very moving and many in the audience were brought to tears.

An Honor Team of Lockheed Martin employees, all members of the Texas State Guard, marched through the assembled crowd, bringing the POW-MIA flag to the base of the U.S. flag.

The Honor Team was comprised of soldiers and airmen from the 4th Regiment and the 4th Air Wing. 4th Regiment members were Colonel Jamie Silva, Major Mike Potts, and Captain Karl Gallagher. Staff Sergeant Rick Wilkins represented the 4th Air Wing.

SSgt Wilkins called the Honor Team to attention and issued the command to present arms as the U.S. flag was lowered. COL Silva presented the POW-MIA flag to the flag pole detail and as the two flags were raised, the Honor Team rendered proper honor to the U.S. flag. The Honor Team then marched off the podium, to the base of the stage and the detail was again called to attention while the national anthem



TXSG Honor Team salutes US and POW-MIA flags.

was sung.

“My colleagues and I have worked hard to bring awareness to our fellow Lockheed Martin co-workers about the men and women who are still missing and unaccounted for from all wars where the U.S. has been involved,” stated SSgt Wilkins. “The news about the POW-MIA flag policy was welcomed by all 15 thousand men and women of the Lockheed family. We were overjoyed as was our number one customer, the U.S. government,” SSgt Wilkins continued.

At the ceremony, many in the crowd had shed tears for lost loved ones. “We take pride in our Veterans and our military. It’s because of their sacrifices that we are the strongest of the strong and will continue to be the light of the world,” SSgt Wilkins remarked.

Don't Leave Your Laptop PC in Your Car!

The Assistant Adjutant General – Army has issued a new General Order prohibiting the storage of personal computers that contain Texas Military Forces work products unattended in parked vehicles. The new order is due to a spike in thefts of Government computers containing Personally Identifiable

Information (PII) and For Official Use Only (FOUO) data. Many of these thefts were from locked vehicles parked at restaurants and home driveways. The Assistant Adjutant General – Army has purview over Army network operations that support the Texas Military Forces.

TMAR Divers Advance to 2nd Class; Ready to Deploy for Emergency Response Assignment

**Story by LT Dale Laine
Unit Public Affairs Officer**

Five members of the Texas Maritime Regiment (TMAR) 2nd Battalion's Dive, Rescue and Recovery (DR&R) teams achieved diver second class status by completing the requisite dive training evolutions as well as attaining the advanced open water civilian certification.

The stepped up recognition means two new elite teams have made a giant step towards fulfilling TMAR's primary mission - supporting Texas Parks and Wildlife officers on state lakes and rivers.

Additionally, the DR&R teams will now be ready to respond during emergencies such as flooding that affects local communities and traps residents, or during search and recovery operations (missing boaters and swimmers).

Members of the teams must achieve a minimum of third class diver to be eligible to join, and then and then commit to train towards first class designation.



PO1 John Arnn and GySgt Clayton Cormack are adjusting SCPO Gary Wilson's equipment.

Photo by ENS Frank S. Hooton

Applications for the teams are being accepted from qualified members of the Texas State Guard. If you think you have what it takes to make the teams, please contact the Maritime Regiment for full details and qualifications needed.

2nd REGT Deploys for Bastrop Wildfires

58 Soldiers Called Up to Open and Operate Three Shelters

**Story by MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan
Army Component Public Affairs Officer**

BASTROP, Texas - As wildfires that broke out Labor Day weekend threatened thousands of lives, soldiers from the 2nd Regiment were activated in early September to assist with shelter management and other relief duties in central Texas.

The Texas Forest Service estimates that more than 34,000 acres were burned and more than 1,554 homes were destroyed in central Texas, displaying thousands of citizens. Two deaths were blamed on the fires.

Fifty-eight soldiers were called up to man



BG Manuel Rodriguez receives a briefing on shelter operations at the Celebration Church in Bastrop.

Photo by MAJ John Dudenhoeffer

three shelters, according to Major John Dudenhoeffer of the Army Component Command.

Over the course of the week-long operation, the TXSG soldiers assisted several hundred displaced persons in the Bastrop area. Guardsmen from other units were on stand-by much of September to assist with additional shelters if the need had arose.